

**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

FINAL MEETING NOTES

Friday, November 19, 2004

**Visitors Auditorium, Channel Islands National Park Headquarters
1901 Spinnaker Drive · Ventura Harbor, CA**

Note: Audio tape recordings of this SAC meeting are available upon request; contact the SAC Coordinator at 805-884-1464.

Attending:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Member Russell Galipeau

US COAST GUARD

Alternate John Luzader

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Member Joan Barminski

Alternate Fred Piltz, Ph.D.

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Alternate Walter Schobel

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Alternate John Ugoretz

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Alternate Jackie Campbell

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Alternate Monica Baker

Non-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION

Member Jim Brye [SAC Vice-Chair]

Alternate Eric Kett

CONSERVATION

Member Linda Krop [SAC Secretary]

Alternate Greg Helms

BUSINESS

Member Michael Hanrahan

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Member Harry Liquornik

Alternate Chris Hoeflinger

RECREATIONAL FISHING

Member Merit McCrea

EDUCATION

Alternate Barbara LaCorte

RESEARCH

Member Dr. Robert Warner

Alternate Dr. Dan Brumbaugh

PUBLIC AT-LARGE-1

Alternate Avie Guerra

PUBLIC AT-LARGE-2

Alternate Matt Lum

CHUMASH COMMUNITY

Member Ricardo Melendez

Alternate Paulette Cabugos

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Chris Mobley, Manager

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Alternate Sean Morton, Management Plan
Coordinator

Absent:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Member Mark Helvey
Alternate Tonya Ramsey

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alternate Gary Davis

US COAST GUARD

Member J. Wade Russell

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Member Alex Stone

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Member Brian Baird
Alternate Melissa Miller-Henson

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Member Marija Vojkovich

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Member Rebecca Roth
Alternate Gary Timm

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Member Dianne Meester

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Member Lyn Krieger
Alternate Jack Peveler

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Member Lauri Baker

BUSINESS

Alternate Darren Caesar

RECREATIONAL FISHING

Member Merit McCrea

EDUCATION

Member Craig Taylor

PUBLIC AT-LARGE-1

Member Jim Knowlton

PUBLIC AT-LARGE-2

Member Dr. Matthew Cahn [SAC Chair]

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Member Bill Douros, Sanctuary Superintendent

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Maria Brown, Manager

Attendance

SAC attendance was good, with 16 of 21 voting seats represented. Voting seats absent for the day were California Resources Agency, California Coastal Commission, Ventura County, and NOAA Fisheries. Public attendance peaked at approximately six individuals.

Administrative Business and Announcements

SAC attendance was good, with 16 of 21 voting seats represented. Voting seats absent for the day were California Resources Agency, California Coastal Commission, Ventura County, and NOAA Fisheries. Public attendance peaked at approximately six individuals.

New Council members were announced: Matthew Lum (public at-large alternate), Chris Hoeflinger (commercial fishing alternate), Ricardo Melendez (Chumash Community member), and Paulette Cabugos (Chumash Community alternate).

Jim Brye (presiding over the meeting in Chair Matt Cahn's absence) announced that applications for eight SAC positions are now being accepted: Public At-Large (member and alternate); Non-consumptive Recreation (member and alternate); Commercial fishing (member); Research (alternate); Conservation (member); and Business (member). Applications are due December 4th. For an application kit call 805-966-7107 ext. 371 or visit <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/news.html>.

Chris Mobley introduced a special Sanctuary visitor, Dr. Won Duk Yoon from the Republic of Korea. Dr. Yoon, a biologist with Korea's National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, is visiting CINMS as part of a NOAA/Korea exchange program whereby he will spend two months learning about marine protected area management from the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

During the Manager's Report, Chris Mobley talked briefly about several research, education and outreach, and resource protection highlights that appear in the report (which was sent to all SAC members).

Council Member Announcements

John Ugoretz – MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force meetings are coming up on January 10-11 and February 22-23 and will be broadcasted on the web [see <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/meetings.html>]. This may be John's last SAC meeting because he may be moving to Monterey to accept a promotion with the Department of Fish and Game as Nearshore Ecosystem Manager for the central coast and Senior Policy Advisor to the MLPA Initiative.

Linda Krop – The Minerals Management Service is taking public comment on Draft Environmental Assessment documents for granting suspensions of production or operation leases located in federal waters off the coast. The comment deadline is December 16 [see: <http://www.mms.gov/omm/pacific/lease/2004Scoping.htm>]. The California State Lands Commission, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) have made available a joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR) for the proposed Cabrillo Port Liquefied Natural Gas Deepwater Port. The comment deadline is December 20th. [see: www.slc.ca.gov/Division_Pages/DEPM/DEPM_Programs_and_Reports/BHP_Project_HearingNotice11-5-04.htm].

Russell Galipeau – The Channel Islands National Park has hosted international visitors recently, including a Director from the Galapagos Islands who discussed exotic species management and MPAs, and Mario Garcia from Chile who focused on exotic species management. Island foxes have been released into the wild on Santa Rosa and San Miguel Islands. One fox was found to be killed and it is thought that a golden eagle made the kill. Through close monitoring they will know when and if to return all foxes back to captivity.

Jim Brye – Noted a front-page story in The Log on the Sanctuary and the SAC, and thanked Mike Murray for making that happen.

Monica Baker – Lisa Anderson, mother of 19-year old Nick Anderson who was recently killed in Iraq when serving with the US military, is a crew member for Island Packers and used to run the dive boat Liberty. Lisa is also one of original Channel Islands Naturalist Corps members. Monica asked that others keep Lisa and her family in their thoughts.

John Luzader – The Coast Guard investigation of a recent gas leak at Platform Gail is ongoing. Thirty-nine people were safely evacuated from the platform.

Michael Hanrahan – The Santa Barbara Sea Center is in search of films and film topics on research and science in Santa Barbara Channel. The Ocean Channel has produced a film about lobster fishing, kelp wrack, and what lives below Stearn's Wharf. If you have ideas let Michael know [michael@ocean.com].

Harry Liquornik – Reported that all fall fisheries are in full swing and the fishing is good. He has been working on monitoring programs, and trying to get something going with the Collaborative Marine Research Program.

Joan Barminski – Following on Linda's announcement, Joan commented that there is a web site available about the consideration of granting suspensions of production or operation leases [see <http://www.mms.gov/omm/pacific/lease/2004Scoping.htm>]. A large number of CDs were sent out containing the DEIS/DEIRs. Comments are due by December 16. Regarding the Platform Gail gas release, there have been news releases from Venoco, MMS and USCG. [see: <http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2004/press1118b.htm> and http://www.venocoinc.com/frame_news.html]. The gas leak occurred for about 2.5 hours, it was not H₂S gas, and there is an investigation underway to determine why it happened (MMS has 3 inspectors on site, along with the USCG). Venoco is plugging the well to eliminate the potential for additional leaking. The leak occurred from a well that was undergoing a workover operation (not a new drilling operation). The leak did not occur at the seafloor, but was at the platform. Joan also reported the recent passing of Tom Dibblee, a 93 year old geologist who has mapped much of the State.

Fred Piltz – Added that there is a toll-free number available for requesting a copy of the DEIS/DEIR documents associated with the consideration of granting suspensions of leases in federal waters off the coast. [800-672-2627].

Chris Hoeflinger – Reported that the SAC's fishing working groups (commercial and recreations) have been working to develop one or two alternatives to expand range of alternatives for the federal phase consideration of marine reserves. They are waiting for NOAA and CINMS to get back to them with some analysis of their alternatives, without which they cannot move forward. Also, Chris reported that construction has begun on a fishermen's memorial in Ventura.

Greg Helms – Expressed concerns about the Grace Mariculture Project related to potential impacts to the marine environment and an apparent lack of organization/coordination among permitting agencies. Reminded SAC members that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy has described the governance of offshore aquaculture as highly disorganized.

Eric Kett – This is a beautiful time to visit the Channel Islands; the weather has been clear, the islands are green in many areas, the water temperature is still over 60 degrees in many places, and the marine life viewing at this time of year is phenomenal.

Procedural Discussion on Letter-Writing

The SAC and Chris Mobley engaged in an important procedural discussion concerning protocols for CINMS notification to, and possible consultation with, the SAC before Sanctuary comment letters are sent to other agencies regarding proposed actions:

Harry Liquornik requested that CINMS notify the commercial fishing seat representatives whenever the Sanctuary will be commenting on a fishing-related matter, and noted that previous Sanctuary Manager Ed Cassano had indicated this would happen.

Chris Hoeflinger emphasized the opportunity for CINMS to use the fishing representatives on the SAC as a source of expertise to help arrive at solutions to issues that could then help improve and strengthen the Sanctuary's comments to other agencies.

Chris Mobley made several comments about the issue, including:

- Expressed general agreement with Harry and agreed that sharing information in advance creates the

- possibility of finding a win-win approach on issues;
- Noted that the primary purpose of the Advisory Council is to provide information to him on Sanctuary actions, but at the same time the Sanctuary does also comment on other agency proposals;
- Explained that sometimes the timeline for providing comments to another agency is very short, so consulting with the SAC first is not always possible;
- Requested that agencies at the SAC table assist by announcing to the SAC when comment periods are coming up on proposed actions;
- Suggested that staff work with agencies to provide a calendar section within the SAC Manager's report that identified upcoming Sanctuary-relevant agency actions and comment opportunities;
- Suggested that Sanctuary staff could provide notice when CINMS is likely to comment on something, but the SAC should then decide if the topic is of interest for discussion at a meeting; and
- Encouraged SAC members to contact staff if there is an upcoming issue of interest and they would like to know if the Sanctuary will be commenting.

Several SAC members expressed support for the idea of advance notification to the SAC, but some also noted that such a procedure should not go so far as to impede the agency's ability to conduct business as it needs to or is mandated to.

John Ugoretz advised that SAC members should keep up to date on issues of interest and notify the Sanctuary if they feel something should be discussed.

25th Anniversary Planning Update

Shauna Bingham and Yvonne Menard provided a status report on various activities and events planned for the 2005 celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Sanctuary and the Channel Islands National Park, respectively.

Event ideas mentioned by Shauna included: A paint-off event on March 12 at the Channel Islands by (SCAPE); a Sanctuary photo contest (6/5/05 entry deadline); a Sanctuary float entered in the Santa Barbara Solstice parade (6/25); participation at the Ventura Harbor Sea Fest (6/26), marketing and sale of various Sanctuary Program products (with support from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation); a VIP Reception in March to celebrate the anniversary of the Channel Islands National Park; a Congressional VIP Reception hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation; the premiere showing in September of the Channel Islands/Jewels of the Pacific docufeature film; and extensive media planning and press opportunities.

Shauna also reported that a part-time CINMS 25th anniversary event coordinator will soon be hired on contract with the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Yvonne Menard announced that a joint Park/Sanctuary slogan has been created: "Celebrating 25 Years: Discover the Past and Chart the Future."

Yvonne reported that the Channel Islands National Park is planning to: work with artists, including kids, and exhibit their works at the Park's auditorium and elsewhere; focus the annual Shore to Sea lecture series on research and monitoring over the past 25 years; host a VIP reception in March to celebrate the Park's 25th anniversary; work on a new brochure with the Ventura Visitors and Convention Center; and work with Amtrak on marketing of ecotourism packages to the Channel Islands.

Eric Kett and others suggested that the anniversary year and events provide a good opportunity to put out more positive messages about fishing in the Sanctuary.

The following SAC representatives volunteered to assist in the planning and implementation for 25th anniversary events: Jim Brye, Michael Hanrahan, Monica Baker, Barbara LaCorte and Lauri Baker.

CINMS Management Plan Revision Update

Mike Murray and Sarah MacWilliams provided an informational status report on the management plan revision process, including a brief overview of proposed action plans and Sanctuary regulatory changes to be analyzed.

Mike mentioned recent accomplishments in the clearance process for release of the Draft Management Plan (DMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), noting that the project is still “close” to being cleared for public release but that estimating a date is difficult.

The Council was provided with a table listing the ten Action Plans that appear in the draft management plan, including information on the implementation status, expected funding sources, and anticipated partnership dependency for each proposed strategy and action. From this table, Sarah MacWilliams highlighted a few of the newest programs.

Mike provided a brief overview of regulatory topics that the DEIS will be addressing and analyzing, including consideration of regulation changes dealing with: minerals mining; discharge of chum for purposes other than legal fishing; discard of food scraps; seabed protection; large vessel approaches within 1nm of the island shores; protection of marine mammals, seabirds and sea turtles; protection of submerged cultural and historic resources; release of introduced species; and the operation of personal watercraft near islands.

Mike explained that when the DMP/DEIS is cleared for public release, the SAC could participate as follows: 1) hold a SAC meeting session to provide an overview of the plan; 2) ask members and working groups to review all or portions of the DEIS/DMP, based on interest areas; 3) members to attend at one or more of the evening public hearings that will be held; and 4) have a SAC meeting session to collect comments on the DMP/DEIS in a manner similar to the process recently used for collecting SAC comments on the Preliminary marine reserves environmental document.

CINMS and NMSP Partnership with the Aquarium of the Pacific

Columbine Culberg with the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) provided a presentation to the SAC about the emerging partnership between the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach and the NMSP.

Columbine first described the very successful Aquarium of the Pacific, highlighting impressive growth and visitorship statistics (1.2 million visitors annually) and providing a description of the Aquarium’s various exhibits and programs.

Columbine then highlighted some areas where partnership work between the NMSP and the Aquarium had either begun or is envisioned, including: combining volunteer network efforts; working together on education and outreach programs; Aquarium sponsorship of special events that provides a setting for stories about the national marine sanctuaries; Aquarium plans to honor CINMS on earth day in 2005; the Aquarium’s planned “blue whale experience,” and the Aquarium’s planned “Channel Islands Experience” exhibit/wing.

Columbine also mentioned that the Aquarium will host a marine protected areas evening panel discussion

on Monday Nov. 21, featuring Chris Mobley, John Ugoretz, Brian Baird, Dan Basta, and Russell Galipeau.

Columbine also noted that former Sanctuary Manager Ed Cassano is the Aquarium's new Vice President of Exhibitory and Programs, and that Ed is excited about having the SAC pay a visit to the Aquarium.

Update on Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

John Ugoretz provided a presentation on the status of monitoring for the Channel Islands MPAs. The presentation was a preview of the first annual monitoring report that John will later present to the California Fish and Game Commission.

John described first year accomplishment of the Channel Islands MPA monitoring program, including: two seasons of SCUBA surveys; preliminary and first season ROV surveys; intertidal surveys; aerial surveys of kelp and boat activity; commercial and recreational fishing data; and lobster trapping/tagging program.

John highlighted some monitoring results available at this time, including: the change in ex-vessel value of various Channel Islands commercial fisheries (spiny lobster, sea urchin, sea cucumber, crab, market squid, CA sheephead, and rockfish), comparisons of changes in commercial catch levels for the state vs. the Channel Islands area for these same species, as well as for the recreational catch of ocean whitefish, CA sheephead, white seabass and lingcod;

John also provided a summary overview of the status of monitoring programs, as follows:

- SCUBA Surveys (implemented)
- Trap/Fixed Gear Surveys (implementing lobster program, other surveys needed)
- Newly Settled Fish Surveys (implemented)
- Aerial Monitoring of Kelp Canopy (implemented)
- ROV & Submersible Surveys (implemented)
- Intertidal Monitoring (implemented)
- Hire Social Science Coordinator (funding in place to contract)
- Commercial & Recreational Data (implemented)
- Sanctuary Aerial Monitoring (SAMSAP) (implemented)
- Non-Consumptive Surveys (2003 pilot study completed, private boat survey planned)
- Knowledge, Perceptions & Attitudes Surveys (survey scheduled for 2005)
- Educator & Scientific Use Tracking (program needed)
- Public Outreach (implemented)

For more information or to request a copy of John's presentation, contact jugoretz@dfg.ca.gov

Update on CINMS Marine Protected Area Environmental Review Process

Sean Hastings provided an informational status report on the environmental review process for considering marine reserves and marine conservation areas within the Sanctuary.

Sean reported that the SAC's comments on the preliminary document that were provided at the last SAC meeting had been recorded, finalized in SAC letter form (which was included in the member's meeting packet) and were now being considered and incorporated into the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Similarly, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and several of its sub groups have provided many comments to CINMS on the preliminary document, and these are also being considered and incorporated. Sean characterized some of the PFMC comments, and a copy of these comments can be

obtained by contacting him at sean.hastings@noaa.gov. In total, about 60 to 70 pages of comments were generated on the preliminary document.

Sean explained that now the work will be internal as staff prepare Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which he estimated at the earliest could be released in the summer of 2005.

Sean also mentioned that in Spring of 2005 the PFMC will receive a formal consultation letter that, per the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, requests assistance from the PFMC in drafting regulations to support alternatives within the DEIS.

Sean also reported that many federal, state and local agencies will receive a formal consultation letter in the Spring of 2005 regarding the potential amendment of the CINMS designation document.

2005 Annual SAC Chairs Meeting: Policy Topic Discussion and SAC Input

Mike Murray provided a brief overview of Annual SAC Chairs meeting to be held in San Francisco on February 7-11, 2005. Mike mentioned that policy topics to be discussed at that meeting include cruise ship activities, marine reserves, aquaculture, and bioprospecting, and he briefly described how the SAC and CINMS had or had not been involved with each issue.

Mike asked the Council to decide if any SAC proposals (i.e., motions, resolutions, or other actionable items) related to these policy topics should be submitted for consideration by other Chairs. No such proposals were recommended by the SAC.

Mike also asked the Council for suggestions on materials related to these policy topics that should be shared with other SACs for review prior to the annual meeting. On this, the SAC had several suggestions, which Mike said he would forward to the meeting organizers:

- Documentation of interactions between national marine sanctuaries and federal Fishery Management Councils, with an emphasis on promoting discussion about the NMSP's planned approach (e.g., develop a formal policy/guidelines vs. use an ad hoc site-by-site process);
- The NMSP's draft "white paper" on marine zoning in national marine sanctuaries;
- Summary of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Working Group process to consider marine reserves: A summary document explaining the community-based process (available from the Sanctuary web site);
- The California Department of Fish and Game's Final Environmental Document for Marine Protected Areas in NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: [see: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/ci_ceqa/index.html];
- Information about the Channel Islands MPA monitoring programs [available from: Channel Islands Final Draft MPA Monitoring Program, http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/channel_islands/monitoring.html];
- Video: The Science of Marine Reserves, by the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO). [see: <http://www.piscoweb.org/outreach/pubs/reserves/index.html>].
- Information about the Sanctuary's federal process to consideration a network of marine reserves and marine conservation areas within the CINMS. [see Notice of Intent: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/pdf/03-12815.pdf>];
- Preliminary Document: Staff Preliminary Working Draft Document for Consideration of a Network of Marine Reserves and Marine Conservation Areas within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary [see: http://channelislands.noaa.gov/marineres/PDF/6_2_04.pdf];
- Brochure: Protecting Your Channel Islands;
- Information from regional researchers at UCSB and Scripps about the methods being used to collect and utilize mussels from oil rig structures in the Santa Barbara Channel; and

- The presentation provided to the SAC by John Ugoretz on first year monitoring results for the Channel Islands MPAs (is possible).

A separately suggested discussion topic for the SAC Chairs annual meeting was the problem SAC's have in maintaining public interest and participation in Sanctuary projects when they often drag for a very long time (e.g., the management plan revision process).

Jim Brye suggested that the CINMS Advisory Council Chair (to be elected on January 21) should not attempt to represent the views of the rest of the SAC with votes on motions, and should not offer individual views as representative of the whole Council. Linda agreed but pointed out that if possible the SAC can discuss further any known agenda issues at the January 21st meeting and provide the new Chair with some perspectives or views to take to the annual meeting in February.

CINMS Program Overview: Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)

Rocio Lozano provided an informational presentation on the Sanctuary's new emerging education program: Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO).

Rocio began by sharing the MERITO mission statement with the SAC: "To provide programs and products for our diverse citizens in order to increase their understanding of ocean-related threats so that our entire community can actively contribute to ocean conservation and protection of our special marine resources."

Rocio highlighted some demographic and educational statistics that provided justification for developing MERITO in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, including:

- 33.4% of Ventura County's population is Hispanic
- 34.2% of Santa Barbara County's population is Hispanic
- 32% of California's population is Hispanic
- The nation's 12 % Hispanic population has increased almost 60% during the last decade
- Regionally relevant (LA County - 45.7%, Orange County- 31.8%, Monterey County - 47%)
- 35% Hispanics < 18 years old (24% for non-Hispanic white)
- > 2 in 5 Hispanics have not graduated from high school
- Only 12% Hispanics graduate from college (26.4% for non-Hispanic white)
- 16.5 and 17 % of the Hispanic population of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties respectively cannot read English

Rocio explained the initial process for developing MERITO at CINMS, noting the importance of first getting to know the audience, then conducting a needs assessment, developing a plan, piloting the plan, evaluate the pilot plan based on feedback, implementing the full plan, evaluating success at meeting objectives, and adjusting the program accordingly.

Rocio also explained the process she is going through now to conduct a MERITO needs assessment, which involves conducting personal interviews with Hispanic-serving community leaders and group directors to identify critical needs and convening focus groups regarding existing program efforts targeted to Hispanic audiences.

Thus far, areas of need that Rocio has become aware of include: outreach instruction; outreach materials; professional development; field trip instruction; field trip transportation; student internships; community event support; conference support; job shadowing and mentorship; and in-kind support.

Rocio also explained the goals of MERITO, which are to:

- Implement a community-based, education and outreach plan targeting Hispanic and other culturally diverse communities;
- Further enhance the MERITO model for the National Marine Sanctuary Program;
- Inspire Hispanic youth toward marine science careers; and
- Leverage resources from existing Hispanic programs.

MERITO target audiences, Rocio explained, are grouped into three categories: 1) Hispanic-serving institution programs (for Hispanic-serving, pre-serving and in service teachers as well as undergraduate and graduate level Hispanic students); 2) Site-based bilingual ocean outreach programs (for Hispanic youth and families); and 3) Community-based bilingual ocean outreach programs (for Hispanic youth leaders, families and migrant farm workers).

For more information or to request a copy of Rocio's presentation, contact rocio.lozano@noaa.gov.

Working Group Reports

Commercial Fishing Working Group – Chris Hoefflinger reported that the SAC's fishing working groups (commercial and recreations) have continued to work on developing one or two alternatives to expand the range of alternatives for the federal phase consideration of marine reserves. They are waiting for NOAA and CINMS to get back to them with some analysis of their alternatives, without which they cannot move forward.

Conservation Working Group – Linda Krop reported that at the group's last meeting they heard updates from Sanctuary staff on the status of: efforts to review and respond to the SAC's recommendations on marine acoustics research, the management plan revision process, and the marine reserves process. Linda explained the work that the group has been doing to assess water quality program needs for the CINMS, and highlighted the contributions of intern Sara Polgar and research fellow Shiva Polefka. Linda anticipates a draft report can be made available to the SAC in January, and asked that if anyone is interested in reviewing preliminary report sections she can make them available.

Recreational Fishing Working Group – No report provided, representatives absent.

Sanctuary Education Team (SET) – Barbara LaCorte reported that the SET has continued to focus on developing their speaker's bureau and Sanctuary presentations that can be made available to various programs or organizations. She explained that right now SET members are working with CINMS staff (Jonna Engel) on refinement of two presentations ("CINMS A-Z" and a CINMS general overview), and there are plans to work on a marine reserves presentation. Barbara also informed the SAC that they are invited to attend upcoming evening presentation workshops held by the SET (Dec. 6 in Ventura at De Anza Middle School Center and Dec. 8 in Santa Barbara at Vieja Valley School) at which participants can learn how to give these presentations and receive notes, speaking tips, the presentation files, and an image library on CD. The SET's vision is that these presentations will be a useful tool for raising community awareness of CINMS, and all resulting talks given in the community can be tracked over time.

Research Activities Panel (RAP) – Bob Warner reported that they are in the early stages of planning the next RAP meeting, the topic of which will be monitoring, including the review of existing monitoring programs for Channel Islands MPAs, how the results are coming in, data problems, etc. He expects the RAP will also look at the issue of how to extend existing MPA monitoring programs into deeper waters of the Sanctuary.

Chumash Community Working Group – Ricardo Melendez had no official report at this time, since the working group has not yet been convened. He did say that efforts had started to bring a group together.

Future SAC meeting schedule and agenda topics

The future schedule for SAC meetings and events was confirmed, as follows:

- December 9, 2004: SAC-hosted public information forum on Liquid Natural Gas technology and local offshore port proposals using a panel discussion format [**NOTE: THIS HAS SINCE BEEN POSTPONED – DATE TBD**]
- **Friday, January 21, 2005:** SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara. At this meeting new members will join the SAC, officer elections will be held, and the SAC will make decisions on an annual work plan. Mike Murray requested that all SAC members think about what they would like to see the SAC and its working groups work on in 2005, consult with working groups as needed, and bring ideas to the Jan. 21st SAC meeting.
- **January 23, January 29 or February 5, 2005:** One day SAC retreat to the Sanctuary (final date TBD). Family members will be welcomed, but their transportation tickets can't be paid for by CINMS.
- **February 7-11, 2005:** Annual SAC Chairs & Coordinators Meeting, San Francisco. The Chair-elect, established at the Jan. 21 SAC meeting, will be invited to represent the SAC at this meeting.
- **Friday, March 18, 2005:** SAC Meeting, Ventura
- **Friday, May 20, 2005:** SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
- **Friday, July 22, 2005:** SAC Meeting, Ventura
- **Friday, September 23, 2005:** SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
- **October 24-28, 2005:** Proposed 2 or 3 day SAC Retreat to Channel Islands (Dates TBD)
- **Friday, November 18, 2005:** SAC Meeting, Ventura

NOTE: The Council requested in September that two of the above SAC meeting dates should be shifted to a Thursday evening schedule. Specific rescheduled dates have not yet been determined.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary staff:

Michael Murray
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Jacklyn Kelly
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